



Queen Anne Cobblestone

The Newsletter of the Queen Anne Historical Society

March 2014

Really Waiting for the Interurban

By Michael Herschensohn, PhD.

Rarely does an odd piece of street furniture capture our imaginations, but the 1979 cast-aluminum streetcar shelter sculpture on the north bank of the Lake Washington Ship Canal known as "Waiting for the Interurban" is an exception to the rule. Everyone in Seattle knows it and the six waiting people and dog, but almost no one pays attention to the authentic shelter on the south bank of the ship canal that may have served as its model, recently nicknamed "Really Waiting for the Interurban" by the Queen Anne Historical Society. It is exciting to learn that the city's Department of Transportation (SDOT) has decided to take on the restoration and preservation of the shelter and has encouraged figuring out why the pragmatic little cover was curiously two-sided.

We all regularly stare at this triangular little structure as we wait to turn left from Nickerson to cross the Fremont Bridge. Bicyclists headed north careen down the Dexter Bikeway to stop by the shelter every day as they eagerly anticipate triggering the counter embedded in the sidewalk. They surely don't realize that they owe Dexter's gentle slope going southeast from 4th North and north from Mercer Street to the Seattle Electric Company that needed the easy climbs for the Nickerson streetcar line.

The shelter sits on the narrow peninsula formed by the intersection of Westlake and Dexter, a mind-boggling intersection for those who think the two avenues are parallel to one another. Indeed, parallel they are from downtown around the base of Queen Anne to 'kiss' just where 4th North comes

tumbling down the hill to cross the 1917 bascule bridge over the ship canal. The shelter is uniquely two-faced with a metal frame, whose brackets hold up a wooden V-shaped roof protecting two wooden benches. Once upon a time, folks waited here to board the Everett Interurban line on Westlake while others waited on the Dexter side of the shelter for trips west on Nickerson past the 3rd Avenue North car barn to 14th Avenue West. Today, Metro bus stops located near the intersection still serve on both Dexter and Westlake.

The streetcar line on Westlake was the city's oldest one. It first ran from Pike Street to Lake Union and was built between October 15 and 20, 1890. (Yes, in five amazing days! We won't tell SDOT about that.) L. H. Griffith's Seattle Electric Railways and Power Company owned the route. Later that year, the company extended the line to Fremont on wooden trestles that had only to cross a narrow creek where the bridge now is.

The trestles on Westlake stood until 1915 when the route was filled and a parallel auto road was completed. After a number of changes in ownership, the line was taken over by Stone and Webster Seattle Electric Company (SEC) in 1900, which acquired all 23 miles of streetcar tracks in the city and rebuilt them all with uniform trackage within two years.

Incorporated on May 29, 1902, the Everett and Interurban Railway ran 14 miles north

See **INTERURBAN** page 2



The bus shelter sits at the intersection of Westlake and Dexter

Next Meeting: March 27 at Queen Anne Christian Church

The final meeting in our series devoted to Queen Anne churches will be held at 7 p.m. at the Queen Anne Christian Church, 1316 3rd Ave. W. The church is located at the corner of 3rd Avenue West and West Lee Street. Pastor Laurie Rudel will lead a tour of the church, and she and members of her congregation will speak about the history of the church and its role in the Queen Anne community.

Members of the Queen Anne Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) first held services on Queen Anne in 1906 at 3rd West in 1911. In the 1950s, a new sanctuary was added then remodeled in 2000. The sanctuary has excellent acoustics and is a frequent venue for concerts. Ms. Rudel has been the pastor of the church since 1991. She has also served at Seattle University as Liturgical Coordinator for theology students of her denomination. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE

We continue to improve our website (www.qahistory.org), including better organization of our historical database and images. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Report From the Archives.....Page 2
President's Letter.....Page 3
Kim's Musings.....Page 4



Queen Anne Historical Society

Page 2

Report From the Archives

By Verna Ness, Chair of the Archives Committee

At a recent meeting, the Archives Committee, composed of Leanne Olson (also chair of the Landmarks Preservation Committee), Bob Frazier and myself, were deciding what materials to keep and what to find homes for elsewhere. A 1924 Granite Falls High School Annual, *The Pilchuck*, found a home with the Granite Falls Historical Museum, and a *History of the Seattle Golf Club, 1960-72*, resulted in a very nice thank-you note from the current manager.

Some articles, such as a 1983 piece on new apartments in Pioneer Square, were not added. But a dainty note, 4.5 by 3 inches, postmarked March 2, 1972, caught our interest. It was addressed to a Mrs. L. J. Locke on 11th Avenue West and was sent by a Mrs. John A. Goodfellow, at Bayview Manor, the home of our archives. It reads: "Dear Mrs. Locke, Please thank the committee for the invitation to the tea, but I never go anywhere so must sorrowfully regret. My sister, Mrs. Ensign, will perfectly represent the family. Sincerely, Ellen Goodfellow."

Leanne's investigations into the background of the note turned up some material pertinent to the Queen Anne Historical Society. Mrs. Locke (Louise) was chairman of the historical committee formed by the Queen Anne Community Council, which became the Queen Anne Historical Society in 1972.

The formation of the committee was noted in the October 4, 1971 issue of *The Seattle Times* in a column by Dorothy Brant Brazier. Titled "It makes for top history," it describes nostalgically the features of the Queen Anne area that the committee wished to preserve. It points out that the basic plan of action for the committee was based on *Here Today, San Francisco's Architectural Heritage*, a book created in 1963 by the San Francisco Junior League with evaluations by R. R. Olmstead and T. H. Watkins.

The committee planned a survey of significant buildings with the hope that some would be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Brant Brazier writes: "I think I have been in more

old Queen Anne Hill homes, huge and elegant built around the 'gos [that's 1890s], than in any other section of Seattle... Good luck to the historical committee."

The writer of the note to the founder of the committee, Mrs. Goodfellow, was one of three daughters of James Blake Howe, who once owned the Ballard/Howe mansion at 22 W. Highland Dr. Many of us have noted the home, with its white columns. James Howe, an attorney, purchased it in 1911, and it was designated a City of Seattle Landmark in 1979. As Leanne reveals, the other two daughters were Mrs. James Richard Goodfellow, who also lived at Bayview and died in 1968, and Mrs. Raymond Ensign, who is mentioned in the note.

Issues of Queen Anne High School's annual publication, the *KUAY*, are available for purchase! Contact archivist Verna Ness at vernanness@yahoo.com and choose from the selection of annuals from between 1922 and 1938.

INTERURBAN: Shelter reflects history of neighborhood street railways

from 1

from Market Street and 20th Avenue. In 1909, Stone and Webster took that line over and extended it to Everett by 1910. This line is memorialized—so to speak—by the eponymous sculpture and the Interurban North pedestrian and bicycle trail that follows the railway line north from 110th and Dayton. From the south end of the Fremont Bridge, the Interurban shared the Seattle Electric Company rails along Westlake into downtown, finally terminating after 1927 at what we know as the (soon to be demolished) Greyhound bus terminal

on Stewart. The last train to make the run left Everett at 11 p.m. on August 30, 1939. The city, having initiated its own municipal service, completed the line on Dexter on May 23, 1914. It ran from 3rd and Pine out past the car barn near 3rd West and Nickerson where the #13 turns around today to 14th West near the southern end of the Ballard Beach line.

The Queen Anne Historical Society isn't sure when our Queen Anne shelter was actually constructed. It does not appear in a photo of the site dated 1915 but does appear in photos in the late 1920s. A good

guess would place it shortly after the completion of the Dexter line and the 1917 opening of the Fremont Bridge.

Simple as it may be, the shelter tells a marvelous story about the history of street railways in our neighborhood. SDOT plans to restore the structure to its original glory. If we are lucky, they'll find a way to restore the back-to-back benches and dress up the landscape as well.

Thanks to Larry Johnson, AIA, for his help preparing this article.

President's Letter

By Michael Herschensohn, PhD.

Defending Seattle Children's Home's McGraw Cottage before the Landmark Preservation Board (an effort that failed*) and making sure the new windows on Queen Anne High School are in harmony with the building's historic look were not the historical society's only activities of the last couple of months.

We've started a new tour committee that is assertively looking at buildings constructed in the last couple of decades. The committee's work will come together on June 14 with a marvelous driving tour of modern Queen Anne that you won't want to miss. Architects, owners and some fantastic locations will make the tour a phenomenally interesting learning experience. We still have details to iron out, but we will keep you informed as we know more. Stay tuned!

The board is also initiating a Community Partners Program that invites local businesses to support our work in exchange for recognition at community events, on our website, in Facebook posts and Tweets and in our publications. Inspired by the work of the Queen Anne Helpline, we are striving to bring the business community into supporting your society. If you know a business that ought to be helping us thrive, drop me a line at mh982501@gmail.com and I'll follow up. Businesses can sponsor the society at \$100, \$200, \$300 and \$400 levels.

The society has also embarked on a couple of clever Twitter and Facebook adventures. Directed by board members Sheri Olson

(Twitter lead) and Nikki Demers-Changelo (Facebook lead), we hope to use multiple Tweets and Facebook posts to build a huge online following of Queen Anne neighbors. The goal is to convert our cyberfriends into real life members who attend meetings and directly participate in the society's work. It is a challenge for sure but one I am very happy to see us take on.

The society's program committee's notice of the 7 p.m. March 27 meeting at the Queen Anne Christian Church at 1316 3rd

Ave W. appears elsewhere in this issue. We hope to see you there and at the May 22 annual meeting. We'll hold that gathering back at the Church of Christ

(former 7th Church of Christ Science) on 8th West, where we'll explore the sanctuary and then adjourn to our regular meeting space.

Dan Kerlee, a Magnolia neighbor and a fascinating collector of objects and information about Seattle's early-20th-century celebrations, will give a talk about the annual Golden Potlatch—the predecessor of our modern Seafair events—that followed the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909.

The crocuses are up in my yard making me hope for warm weather, and I'm looking forward to an exciting spring and summer of great Queen Anne Historical Society programs!

*N.B.: The landmarks board voted down the nomination, but the developers say the cottage will be saved and reused as two of the 61 housing units planned for the site.



Seattle Children's Home's McGraw Cottage

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"KINNEAR HOME"

Kim's Musings:

By Kim Turner, Chair of Research Committee

One of the older buildings on Queen Anne Hill is a church which rises from the southwest corner of 2nd Avenue North and Valley Street. This building, which has held a number of names throughout its history, began as the German Evangelical Church, first established in 1891 at the confluence of Harrison Street and Taylor Avenue North. Meetings were held there until the construction of the facility at Valley and 2nd North in late 1906. The first appearance of the church in the Polk Seattle City Directory, in 1907, refers to it as: First Church of the Evangelical Association.

None of the early pastors is listed until 1928, when Rev. Carl Heinmiller is given space in the directories. He served through 1933, being replaced by Rev. Emil C. Kreitlow. Kreitlow was

followed by Rev. John Henry Soltman, who became pastor in 1935 when Rev. Kreitlow was assigned to a church in Oregon. Soltman was there for barely a year when he was called to serve as superintendent of all the Evangelical Churches in Washington State. Rev. Rodney A. Sundberg succeeded him, serving through 1942. Rev. Frank A. Lenz followed, serving into the early 1950s. It was during his stewardship that the church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1947.

He was replaced by Robert D. Bennett in 1952, followed by Rev. David T. Rickard in 1958. Rev. Rickard served until 1963, when he was replaced by Rev. J. Robert Wetzel. In 1967 Rev. Wetzel was succeeded by Rev. James H. Vance, who became pastor of First United Methodist

Church in 1969. The church closed that same year, due to lack of funds and a decreasing membership. It remained vacant for several years, finally becoming home to a counseling center.

The building was listed by Mimi Sheridan in our historic building survey of Queen Anne done about a decade ago. The building remains as one of Queen Anne's oldest and best examples of vernacular religious architecture. It has been converted to residential use. The most distinctive features, two stained glass windows on the north and east sides of the building, remain intact. The original steeple, with surrounding turrets, was removed some years ago before the church closed. The Gothic entrance at the northeast corner of the building, at the base of the tower, is still there.